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Examiner: Carlos Lugo
Group Art Unit: 3676

Amendments to the Specification

Please add new paragraphs 21.1 and 21.2 as follows:

[0021.1] Fig. 12 is a view similar to Fig. 4, showing the handle 168 approaching the closed position and showing the keeper in the unlatched position.

[0021.2] Fig. 12A is an enlarged partial view of the circled area 12A in Fig. 12.

Please amend paragraphs 28, 34 and 38 as follows:

[0028] Referring to FIGS. 4, 6, 9 and 10, the handle 168 comprises a pair of depending mounting flanges 224 and 226, each of which has an aligned opening 196 through which the mounting pin 176 is slidably received. A connecting flange 194 that has a nipple 195 on an underside thereof joins the mounting flanges 224 and 226. A side plate 228 extends laterally from the mounting flange 224 and ~~had~~ has an upper reinforcing flange 230 and a lower reinforcing flange 232. The side plate 228 joins a laterally extending locking flange 198 that has an opening 200 and a groove 201 therein. The locking flange 198 extends laterally toward the mounting plate 162. A retainer projection 234 extends laterally from the locking flange 198 toward the mounting flange 226 and has an upper cam surface 236 and a lower cam surface 238. The nipple 195 receives and mounts one end of a coil spring 197.

[0034] With reference to FIGS. 4 and 8, the operation of the latch assembly will be briefly described. For this description, it is assumed that the latch assembly is in the closed position as illustrated in FIG. 4. In the closed position, the handle 168 is substantially horizontal with the lower cam surface 238 resting on the upper edge 248 of the flange 180 such that the opening 200 in the ~~end~~ locking flange 198 of the handle 168 is aligned with the opening 210 of the locking tab 208 of the closed keeper 166 and the opening 242 of the flange 180. In this position, the rotation stop 216 abuts the lower leg 244 of the flange ~~168~~ 180.

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[0038] As the handle is returned to the closed position, the handle locking flange 198 will normally contact the surface 220 of the catch 218. The continued rotation of the handle rotates the closed keeper 166 clockwise until the locking flange 198 clears the catch. As the locking flange 198 passes by the catch 218, the inherent over-center position of the closed keeper will normally rotate the closed keeper counterclockwise until the second stop 216 contacts the lower leg 244 of the flange 180, resulting in the catch overlying the retaining projection 234 and locking the handle 168 in the closed position and the hook in the locked position. In the event that the closed keeper 166 is stuck in the unlatched position, the end-bottom edge of the locking flange 198 of the handle 168 will strike a surface of the second stop 216 as illustrated in FIGS. 12 and 12A and move the closed keeper 166 to the latched position shown in FIG. 4.